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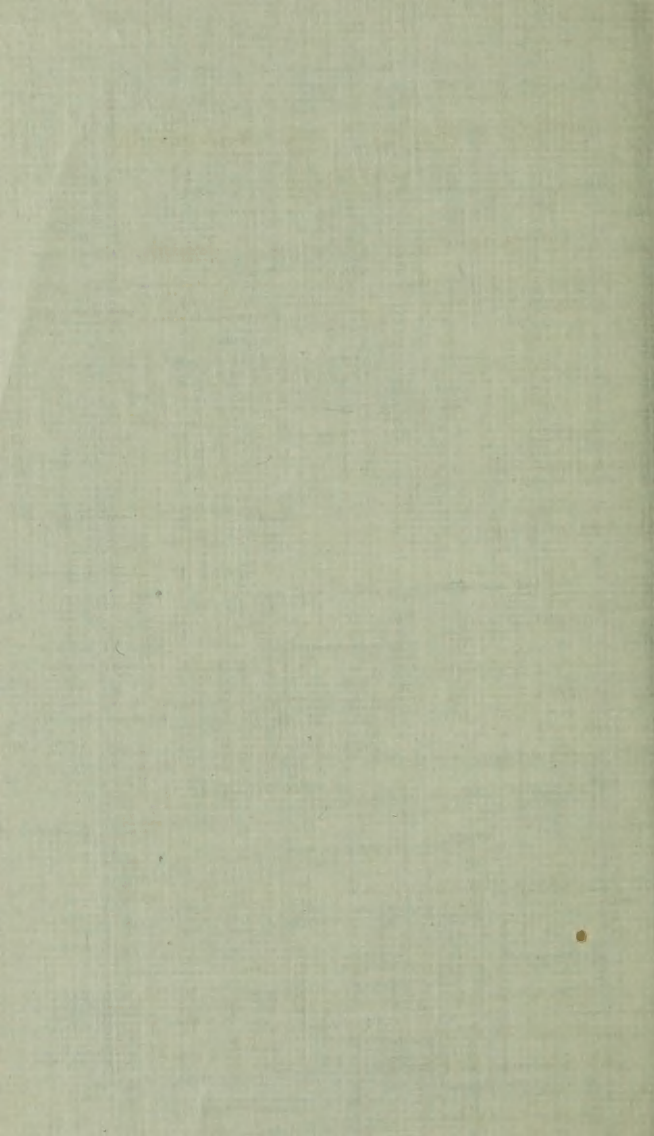
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THE HOW

OF

MISSION STUDY



# THE "HOW" OF MISSION STUDY

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A mission study class is not a formal organization, but a group of people who agree to come together in an informal manner to discuss, under the direction of a leader (after careful preparation), some previously assigned missionary subject. The mission study class does not add another regular meeting to those established in the church, it merely requests those who are interested to give eight hours a year to one of these several subjects.

It is not difficult to organize a mission study class. Because it is an entirely new thing there has been a feeling of vagueness and mystery in the minds of many. A mission study class is only the modern reading circle or literary club idea applied to the study of world movements with a much shorter amount of time required, and possibly a little more intense work during the course.

## THE ONE ESSENTIAL

There is only one essential needed for a successful mission study class in every church in Methodism. That essential is

one person who believes that a mission study class ought to be organized and who is willing to labor until it is accomplished. Many difficulties are in the way, but an earnest person who will work as if the kingdom depended on himself and pray as if it depended on God will be able to overcome all of them. Ordinarily the second vice-president ought to undertake this work, but where he does not, some other person, possibly not an officer in the church, can successfully form an informal class such as we are here discussing. In the smaller churches it may often fall to the lot of the pastor to do this. He can well afford the necessary time. The Master tore himself away from the crowds to teach a class of twelve. Not many twentieth century pastors will have to do this, but they are face to face with the same problem that He faced—leadership—and there is no other available agency which will do as much to develop missionary leaders as the mission study class.

## THE BEGINNING

The mission study enthusiast must begin by personal work. It is easy for the average person to "work up" a social or a sleigh ride. "Work up" a mission study class in the same manner. Begin with those who are interested in the Second De-

partment work. The more influential the first member enlisted the more certain is success. Be enthusiastic and determined, but don't bore people.

In addition to the points to be discussed in a mission study rally, given on a following page, it will be well for a person who is working up a mission study class to emphasize the following. By doing so many of the stock objections to joining a class will be answered before they are made:

1. "No time" is always one of the great objections. Emphasize the fact that only eight or nine hours a year are required. Make it clear that the course will be completed in eight weeks. By tact it will surely be possible to convince a few people that they have time for such a study. How many young people of your society can say that they do not spend eight hours a year in less important ways? We always find time for the things we really want to do.

2. Small numbers. A large class is not desirable. Few leaders can do justice to more than twelve. In the large class there is more of a tendency to drift into a lecture course and less work is done by the members. When it is once understood that a small class is preferred, immediately the idea of impossibility and discouragement that might come from small numbers is met and conquered.



3. Value of the study. Because of its far-reaching character it is impossible to fully develop this subject here, but the spiritual value, deepened prayer life, greater interest in the work at home, a well grounded opinion of the whole missionary enterprise, and many other kindred subjects have been emphasized over and over again by those who have been leaders and members of classes. Nor should we forget the broader knowledge of world affairs, relations of governments to each other, the new and great developments in the Far East, the burning problems in our own country, and other kindred subjects with which every American citizen, especially every Christian citizen, should be familiar.

### SELECTING THE LEADER

Having enroled two or three members in the class, the next logical step is for the members already enroled to select a leader, if one has not previously been chosen. In some churches it may be wise to delay the selection, allowing the whole class to elect, but the leader needs to be selected early in order that he may begin preparation. The question of a leader is a most difficult one in many places, either because there seems to be no qualified person or because of unwillingness on the part of those who are

qualified. If the character and object of the class are kept in mind this difficulty will be largely overcome. A leader is not expected to lecture or give utterance to a wonderful store of accumulated knowledge of missions. Information in this form comes in sermons and public addresses. This is an informal group of people who assemble to discuss missions and to give free expression to their own opinions. They need a leader to direct their thought. Urge the leader to undertake the work from this standpoint.

A person who hesitates about undertaking the leadership of a class should be informed concerning the character and quality of the helps provided by the Young People's Missionary Department. A large correspondence with leaders of classes has made it possible to prepare for leaders, helps based on experience. It has always been the aim of the compiler to keep in mind those who [have never led classes. These helps are worked out in minute detail, an inexperienced leader being told what to do during each portion of the class hour. Every chapter of each book is outlined in this manner. Those who have used these helps in other years have often said that any person with average intelligence could lead a class if he had access to the helps. The helps are furnished free by the Young

People's Missionary Department, and are sent to the leader promptly upon receipt of the enrolment card.

—It should not be inferred from the above that the leader will not need to spend time in preparation. He will have to give more time to the study than any member of the class. Neither does it mean that the best possible leader should not be obtained. Ability to teach, to inspire, to question, to draw out people in discussion are all valuable and should be secured in a leader if possible. What is to be gathered from the above statement is this—that the mission study idea should not be abandoned in your church because you cannot find a leader having all these qualifications rated at one hundred per cent. Any devoted Christian young man or woman who can get along well with other people, and who is willing to work, can become fitted by personal application to lead a successful mission study class.

### SELECTION OF COURSE

The reasons given for the early selection of a leader are equally valid for the early selection of a course. In fact, there is little value in the early choice of a leader if he does not know what course is to be pursued. There are a large number of courses from which to choose. Unless there is some



special reason for doing otherwise, it will be well to select one of the courses provided for the current year. Both home and foreign courses are offered. Choose the one which will be most likely to attract and interest the members of the class. At the close of this leaflet will be found a complete list of text-books, libraries, and other accessories.

### THE MISSION STUDY RALLY

The best method of presenting mission study to the young people of the church is to devote one of the regular devotional or missionary meetings of the young people's society to the consideration of this subject. The regular topic card usually provides for such a meeting under the head of "Study of Church Benevolences." For some societies this topic appears too late in the year. Those desiring to organize classes early in the fall can easily make arrangements for an exchange of topics. Very careful preparation should be made for this meeting. The leader naturally will be one of those already enlisted. The following subjects ought to be presented in clear, pointed statements:

1. The value of mission study. Growth of the movement. Wherein others have benefited and what we may expect.

2. The plan of the class, laying special

emphasis on its informal character, the small requirement of time, etc.

3. Interesting features about the subject that is to be studied.

4. "Why I decided to join," by those already enroled.

5. A brief outline of the text-book—just enough to show what it covers. Have a copy of the book to show.

6. Pass cards and secure an enrolment of those who wish to join.

### FOLLOWING THE RALLY

If possible, those who have enroled in the class should meet immediately after the close of the rally to decide on the time and place of the first meeting. This is extremely important. Do not wait to let the interest die out. Orders for text-books should also be secured at this meeting. Have a copy of the text-book to show and secure orders from each member. It is essential that each member have a copy of the book. The question of Reference Library and other accessories should also be discussed in order that the library may be secured at the earliest possible moment. Note statement concerning prices given in the back of this leaflet.

There are two things that should be done immediately after the first meeting:

1. Send the order for text-books and

libraries at once to the nearest depository of the Book Concern.

2. Send the enrolment card to the Young People's Missionary Department, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York City, in order that the leader may have the helps which are sent free upon receipt of this card.

The first meeting of the class should be held as soon as possible after the arrival of the text-books. Let as little time as possible elapse before this meeting. All questions about time and place of meeting, election of a class secretary, and other officers, and similar preliminary questions should be settled at this time. The leader should go over the text-book carefully with the class, calling attention to appendices, illustrations, and other features of special interest, and should plan to make a definite assignment of the first lesson. Full details concerning the conduct of this organization meeting will be found in the mission study class manual which is contained in the package furnished leaders of classes, upon receipt of the enrolment card. Practically every question which would naturally arise in the conduct of a class is discussed in these helps.

#### HELPS FOR LEADERS

The helps for leaders which have been prepared to accompany each of these text-

books are not sold nor are they furnished by the Book Concern when the text-books are ordered, but they are sent free to the leader of the class when the enrolment card is received in the office of the Young People's Missionary Department. All text-books should be ordered from the nearest depository of the Book Concern, but requests for all helps, maps, charts, etc., should be sent to the Young People's Missionary Department, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York City.





